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BAHAI CONGRESS

Held by the
BAHAI TEMPLE UNITY

For the Exposition of the Universal
Principles, Economic, Social and
Religious of the Bahai
Movement



EIGHTH ANNUAL
MASHRAK-EL-AZKAR
CONVENTION

April 29—May 2, 1916
CHICAGO, ILL.



All Sessions to be held at the
Auditorium Hotel

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BAHAI CONGRESS COMMITTEE

ALBERT H. HALL, JOSEPH H. HANNEN,
C. MASON REMEY, Chairman.

Addresses will be made by well known
Bahai speakers.

MASHRAK-EL-AZKAR

From the Persian, literally translated

"The dawning place of the mentionings of God."

It is the Bahai Temple with its various educational and philanthropic institutions.

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BAHAI CONGRESS

Program

1st Session: Saturday, April 29, at 8:00 P. M.

Subject: THE BAHAI MOVEMENT.

1. Investigation of Truth.
2. Fundamental Unity of all Religions.
3. Harmony between Religion and Science.
4. Demonstration of Divinity and Inspiration—The Word.
5. The Bahai Revelation.

The Bab—Baha'o'llah—Abdul Baha.

THE BAHAI MOVEMENT

"The Bahai Movement is not an organization. You can never organize the Bahai Cause. The Bahai Movement is the Spirit of this age. It is the Essence of all the highest ideals of this century. The Bahai Cause is an inclusive movement: the teachings of all the religions and societies are found here; the Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Mohammedans, Zoroastrians, Theosophists, Freemasons, Spiritualists, etc., find their highest aims in this Cause—the Socialists and philosophers find their theories fully developed in this Movement."

"No man should follow blindly his ancestors and forefathers. Nay, each must see with his own eyes, hear with his own ears, and investigate Truth in order that he may find the Truth; whereas the religion of forefathers and ancestors is based upon blind imitation—man should investigate the Truth."

"The foundation underlying all the Divine precepts is One Reality. It must needs be Reality, and Reality is One, not multiple. Therefore the foundation of the Divine Religions is one. But we can see that certain forms have come in, certain imitations of forms and ceremonials have crept in. They are heretical, they are accidental, because they differ; hence they cause differences among religions. But if we set aside these imitations and seek the Reality of the Foundation we shall all agree, because religion is One and not multiple."

"Religion must be reasonable; it must agree perfectly with science, so that science shall

sanction religion and religion sanction science. The two must be brought together, indissolubly in the Reality. Down to the present Day it has been customary for man to accept a thing because it was called religion, even though it were not in accord with human reason."

ABDUL BAHA.

"The Sun of Truth is the Word of God, upon which depends the training of the people of the country of thought. It is the Spirit of Reality and the Water of Life. All things owe their existence to it. Its manifestation is ever according to the capacity and coloring of the mirror through which it may reflect. For example: Its Light, when cast on the mirrors of the wise, gives expression to wisdom; when reflected from the minds of artists it produces manifestations of new and beautiful arts; when it shines through the minds of students it reveals knowledge and unfolds mysteries."

"This is that which descended from the Source of Majesty, through the tongue of Power and Strength upon the prophets of the past. We have taken its essences and clothed them with the garment of brevity, as a favor to the beloved, that they may fulfill the Covenant of God; that they may perform in themselves that which He has entrusted to them, and attain the victory by virtue of devotion in the land of the Spirit."

BAHA'O'LLAH.

2nd Session: Sunday, April 30, at 3:30 P. M.

Subject: UNIVERSAL PEACE.

1. Religion Must be the Cause of Unity amongst Mankind.
2. The Abandonment of all Religious, Denominational, Racial and Patriotic Prejudices.
3. The Education of the children of all Countries, Races and Religions under a Universal Standard of Instruction and a Common Curriculum.
4. A Universal Tribunal for the Maintenance of International Justice and for the Enforcement of Peace between Nations.
5. The New Spiritual Day.

UNIVERSAL PEACE

"That all men and nations shall make peace; that there shall be Universal Peace amongst governments, Universal Peace amongst religions, Universal Peace amongst races, Universal Peace amongst the denizens of all regions. Today in the world of humanity the most important matter is the question of Universal Peace. The realization of this principle is the crying need of the time."

"It is established that all the prophets of God have come to unite the children of men and not to disperse them, and to put in action the law of love and not enmity. Consequently we must throw aside all these prejudices, the racial prejudice, the patriotic prejudice, the religious and political prejudices. We must become the cause of unity of the human race."

"Every religion is the greatest divine effulgence, the cause of life amongst men, the cause of the honor of humanity, and is productive of the life everlasting amongst humankind. Religion is not for enmity or hatred. It is not for tyranny or injustice. If religion be the cause of enmity and rancor, if it should prove the cause of alienating men, assuredly non-religion would be better. For religion and the teachings which appertain to it are as a course of treatment. What is the object of any course of treatment? It is cure and healing. But if the outcome of a course of treatment should be productive of mere diagnosis and discussion of symptoms, the abolition of it is evidently preferable. In this sense, abandoning religion would be a step toward unity."

"All mankind should partake of both knowledge and education, and this partaking of

knowledge and of education is one of the necessities of religion. The education of each child is obligatory. If there are no parents, the community must look after the child. Each person should have his part of the sciences."

"A universal tribunal under the power of God, under the protection of all men. Each one must obey the decisions of this tribunal, in order to arrange the difficulties of every nation.

"About fifty years ago in the Book of Akdas, Baha'o'llah commanded the people to establish the Universal Peace and summoned all the nations to the Divine Banquet of International Arbitration so that the questions of boundaries, of national honor and property and of vital interests between nations might be decided by an arbitral court of justice.

"Remember these precepts were given more than half a century ago—at that moment no one spoke of Universal Peace—nor of any of these principles, but Baha'o'llah proclaimed them to all the sovereigns of the world. * * * They are the spirit of this age; the light of this age; they are the well-being of this age."

"O PEOPLE! The Doors of the Kingdom are opened—the Sun of Truth is shining upon the world—the Fountains of Life are flowing—the Daysprings of Mercy have appeared—the Greatest and Most Glorious Light is now manifest to illuminate the hearts of men: Wake up and hear the Voice of GOD calling from all parts of the Supreme World—'COME UNTO ME, O ye children of men; come unto Me, O ye who are thirsty, and drink from this sweet Water which is descending in torrents upon all parts of the globe!'

“Now is the time! NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME!

“Look ye at the time of Christ; had the people realized that the Holy Spirit of GOD was speaking to them through His Divine Mouth they would not have waited three centuries before accepting Him. And now is it meet for you that ye are sleeping upon the beds of idleness and neglect, while the Father foretold by Christ has come amongst us and opened the Greatest Door of Bounteous Gifts and Divine Favors? Let us not be like those in past centuries who were deaf to His Call and blind to His Beauty; but let us try and open our eyes that we may see Him, and open our ears that we may hear Him, and cleanse our hearts that He may come and abide in our temples.

“These days are the days of faith and deeds—not the days of words and lip service. Let us arise from the sleep of negligence and realize what a great feast is prepared for us, first eating thereof ourselves, then giving unto others who are thirsting for the Water of Knowledge and hungering for the BREAD OF LIFE.

“These Great Days are swiftly passing and once gone can never be recalled; so while the Rays of the Sun of Truth are still shining, and the ‘Center of the Covenant of GOD’ is manifest, let us go forth to work, for after a while the night will come and the way to the Vineyard will not then be so easy to find.

The Light of Knowledge hath appeared before which the darkness of every superstitious fancy will be annihilated. The hosts of the Supreme Concourse are descending to assist all those who rise up to serve their Lord, to subdue and gain the victory over the city of the hearts, to proclaim the Glad Tidings of the Coming of The Lord, and to unite the souls of His creatures.”

ABDUL BAHA.

3rd Session: Monday, May 1, at 8:00 P. M.

Subject: THE ONENESS OF THE WORLD
OF HUMANITY

1. The Interdependence of Individuals, Nations and Races.
2. The Solution of Economic Difficulties.
3. The Equality of Men and Women.
4. A Universal Language.
5. The Coming of The Great Master, the Source of the Real Oneness of Humanity.

THE ONENESS OF THE WORLD OF HUMANITY

“Baha’o’llah addresses Himself to the world of men, saying, ‘Ye are all leaves of one tree and the fruits of one arbor.’ That is the world of existence is no other than one tree, and the nations or peoples are like unto the different branches or limbs thereof, and human individuals are similar to the fruits and blossoms thereof. * * * while in all past religious books and epistles, the world of humanity has been divided into two parts; one called the people of the Book, or the Pure Tree, and the other, the Evil Tree. One half of the people of the world were looked upon as belonging to the faithful, and the other as belonging to the irreligious and the infidel; one half of the people were consigned to the mercy of the Creator, and the other half were considered as objects of the wrath of their Maker. But Baha’o’llah proclaimed the Oneness of The World of humanity—He submerged all mankind in the Sea of Divine Generosity.”

“No religious books of the past Prophets speak of the Economic question, while the economic problem has been thoroughly solved in the Teachings of Baha’o’llah. Certain regulations are revealed which insure the welfare and well being of all humanity. Just as the rich man enjoys his rest and his pleasures surrounded by luxuries, the poor man must likewise have a home, be provided with sustenance, and not be in want. * * * Until this is effected happiness is impossible. All are equal in the estimation of God; their rights are one and there is no distinction for any soul; all are protected beneath the justice of God.”

The Equality of Men and Women

“This is peculiar to the teachings of Baha’o’llah, for all former religious systems placed men above women. Daughters and sons must follow the same form of study and the same

education. Having one course of education promotes unity among mankind."

"The oneness of language, namely, that a universal language shall be adopted which shall be taught by all the schools and academies of the world. A committee appointed by national bodies shall select a suitable language to be used as a means of international communication, and that language shall be taught in all the schools of the world in order that every one shall need but two languages, his national tongue and the universal language. All will acquire the international language."

"Nine Proofs Upon Which the Coming of the Great Master Is Based:

1. That Great Master will be the Educator of the world of humanity.

2. His Teachings must be universal and confer illumination upon human kind.

3. His knowledge must be innate and spontaneous, and not acquired.

4. He must answer the questions of all sages, solve the difficult problems of humanity, and be able to withstand all the persecutions and sufferings heaped upon him.

5. He must be a joy-bringer and the herald of the kingdom of happiness.

6. His knowledge must be infinite and his wisdom all-comprehensive.

7. The penetration of His Word and the potency of his influence must be so great as to humble even his worst enemies.

8. Sorrows and tribulations must not vex him. His courage and conviction must be God-like. Day unto day he must become firmer and more zealous.

9. He must be the establisher of universal civilization, the unifier of religions, the standard of universal peace, and the embodiment of all the highest and noblest virtues of the world of humanity. Whenever you find these conditions realized in a human temple, to him look for guidance and illumination."

ABDUL BAHA.

4th Session: Tuesday, May 2, at 8:00 P. M.

Subject: THE MASHRAK-EL-AZKAR

1. The Mashrak-El-Azkar, the Divine Institution of Baha'o'llah.
2. The Mashrak-El-Azkar of Eshkhabad, Russia, and the Mashrak-El-Azkar Work in America.
3. The Philanthropic Aspect of the Mashrak-El-Azkar.
4. The Essential Necessity for the Confirmation of the Holy Spirit as Embodied in the Mashrak-El-Azkar.
5. The Importance of Erecting the Mashrak-El-Azkar Now, during the Days of The Covenant.

THE MASHRAK-EL-AZKAR

"Now the day has arrived in which the edifice of God, the divine sanctuary, the spiritual Temple, shall be erected in America."

"The accessories of the Mashrak-El-Azkar are numerous. Among them are the school for orphans, the great college for the higher arts, hospital, home for the cripples and hospice. The doors of these places are to be opened to all sects—no differentiations. When these accessories are completed, and, by God's help and aid, the departments fully systematized, it will be proved that the Mashrak-El-Azkar is to human society a great bounty and a great blessing.

"In brief, through the unlimited bounties of God, I am hopeful that the beloved ones of God in America may be aided and confirmed in founding this mighty and solid foundation and gradually annex thereto its accessories."

"When these institutions, college, hospital, hospice and establishments for the incurables, university for the study of higher sciences and giving post-graduate courses, and other philanthropic buildings are built, its doors will be opened to all the nations and religions. There will be absolutely no line of demarcation drawn. Its charities will be dispensed irrespective of color or race. Its gates will be flung wide open to mankind; prejudice toward none, love for all. The central building will be devoted to the purpose of prayer and worship. Thus, for the first time, religion will become harmonized with science, and science will be the handmaid of religion, both showering their material and spiritual gifts on ALL humanity. In this way the people will be lifted out of the quagmires of slothfulness and bigotry."

ABDUL BAHA.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MASHRAK-EL-AZKAR CONVENTION

Meeting Upon the Site of the Mashrak-El-
Azkar, Wilmette, Sunday April 30,
at 11:00 A. M.

Monday and Tuesday, May 1 and 2, Morning
and Afternoon Business Sessions.

Information Bureau of The Mashrak-El-Azkar
Convention, 5338 Kenmore Ave., Chicago.

For further information regarding the Bahai
Congress, and for copies of this pamphlet,
singly or in quantities, supplied gratis for
distribution, please apply to

The Bahai Congress Committee.

Address, until April 25, P. O. Box 1319, Wash-
ington, D. C.

After April 25, P. O. Box 283, Chicago, Ill.



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